REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1909.

Twenty-second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the East Grinstead Urban District for the Year ending 31st December, 1909.

Area: 6,355 Acres. **Population: Census (of 1901), 6,094.**

	1907.	1908.	1909.
Population estimated to middle of year	6,800	7,100	7,400
Birth Rate per 1,000	20·05	20·01	20·0
General Death Rate per 1,000	9·4	9·4	11·6
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	·73	·42	·67
Death Rate from Phthisis	1·4	·56	·94
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases	1·6	2·3	2·4
Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births	92·8	48·7	80·1
Deaths over 65, per centage of total Deaths	31·9	12·04	28·3

Vital Statistics.

In 1909 the deaths of 113 persons at all ages and from all causes were recorded in the district against 83 in 1908 and 85 in 1907. The 113 deaths were at the rate of 15·2 per 1,000 of the total population. Of this number 12 were children under one year of age, and were in the proportion of 8·2 per cent. of those born ; 32, or 28·3 per cent., were of persons 65 years of age and upwards. The deaths of 12 persons 80 years of age and upwards were recorded, the oldest being 92 years old ; 12 children died under the age of one year, in the proportion of 80·1 per 1,000 registered births. Of the 113 deaths, 27 were of persons not residing in the district, but brought into it from outside districts, 20 of them dying in the Workhouse, two in the Cottage Hospital, and five in the Sanatorium.

Corrected Death Rate.

Excluding the deaths of the 27 persons who were admitted to Public Institutions in the town from outside districts, the correct death rate in the Urban District is 11·6 per 1,000 persons living.

Births.

The births numbered 148, an increase of 5 over those of the previous year ; 82 of these children were males and 66 females, equal to a birth rate of 20 per 1,000 of the population.

Death from Zymotic Disease.

There were 5 deaths from the ordinary Zymotic Diseases, viz. :—

Whooping Cough	2
Measles	2
Diphtheria	1

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-three cases were reported to me under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, as follows :—

Diphtheria	16
Scarlet Fever	10
Erysipelas	2
Pulmonary Tubercle	5

With the exception of the two cases of Erysipelas, two cases of Diphtheria and the five cases of Tubercle, all the above were removed to the Sanatorium.

Scarlet Fever.

The ten cases of Scarlet Fever were all of a very mild type; one of the nurses at the Sanatorium contracted the disease in the wards. This disease appears to have altered in character of late years; one hardly ever sees the malignant cases of Scarlet Fever that were common enough 25 or 30 years ago.

Diphtheria.

There were 16 cases of Diphtheria in the district during the year; many of these cases were so mild in character that a correct diagnosis could only be made by the aid of a bacteriological examination; there was only one fatal case, that of a little girl who died just as she reached the Sanatorium. The modern method of treatment by antitoxin has apparently reduced the mortality and the dangers of Diphtheria in a very marked degree; besides this, there is little doubt that the disease is distinctly modified in character, one sees very few of the very severe cases which were so common 20 or 30 years ago.

Enteric.

Not a single case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever was reported in the Urban District during the year. Infantile Diarrhœa was also less common than usual, probably in consequence of the cool summer, this complaint being usually worse in hot weather.

Tubercle.

There were seven deaths from Pulmonary Tubercle, or other Tuberculous diseases. The new Local Government Board Order, relating to Tubercle, came into force on January 1st, 1909. Under this Order the Poor Law Medical Officers are bound to notify to the Medical Officer of Health all cases of Tubercle occurring among the inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst persons under the care of District Medical Officers. Five such cases were notified to me in the year.

A proposal made by some of the Members of the Rural District to erect a joint Consumption Sanatorium fell to the ground, it being felt by those opposing the proposition that the population to be served is hardly large enough to warrant the necessary outlay.

Cancer.

There were 10 deaths from Cancer in 1909; the average age of these patients at the time of death was 62½ years; the youngest was 53 years old, the oldest 81.

Inquests.

Eight inquests were held in the district; in two instances a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane was returned, in two cases death was due to accident, the other four inquests were on persons who had died from natural causes.

Water.

The Water Company afforded the town a constant supply of water during the year. The usual quarterly analyses were made by Messrs. Hincks & Eyre, who have succeeded the late Sir Thomas Stevenson as analysts to the Urban District Council; the reports of these gentlemen were uniformly favourable and showed the water to be of a high degree of purity, both chemically and bacteriologically.

The East Grinstead Gas and Water Company are shortly going to apply to Parliament for a New Bill to

(*a*) Legalise the Hackenden Works, which were proved in a recent action in the Law Courts to be unauthorised.

(*b*) To seek for water at a spot near Forest Row Railway Station, and if water is found, to erect a new pumping station at that spot.

(*c*) To acquire the necessary land and construct a service reservoir at Ashurst Wood.

(*d*) To acquire a portion of the Playfield at East Grinstead, and on it to erect a water tower, the height of the water when the tank is full to be 520 feet above Ordnance datum.

(*e*) To raise the additional capital necessary to carry out the above works, which are estimated to cost about £19,000.

Scavenging.

The collection and removal of house refuse in the town was regularly and efficiently performed.

The Sewage Farm is very well managed; the monthly samples of effluent water submitted to me for analysis were of very satisfactory quality, and prove that the bacteriological tanks perform their work efficiently.

The district was regularly inspected, and when required disinfectants were freely supplied.

Street watering during last summer was a superfluous luxury as the roads were nearly always wet from the constant rain.

The main road from London to the South was tarred over the whole of its course through the Urban District; as a means of preventing dust this is an admirable process, in addition it appears to me to be economical in the long run, because it helps to preserve the surface of the road, thus lessening the cost of repairs.

The rainfall for the year amounted to 36·08 inches, a little more than four inches above the average, the Summer and Autumn were particularly damp, cold and unseasonable.

PERCY E. WALLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Old Stone House,

East Grinstead,

March 19th, 1910.

VITAL STATISTICS OF EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	6,000	172	28·6	16	93·0	97	16·1	26	14	—	83	13·8
1900	6,100	130	22·7	8	57·5	65	12·2	13	20	—	51	9·01
1901	6,150	144	23·4	13	81·02	63	10·2	9	5	—	48	9·2
1902	6,200	151	24·3	12	74·4	85	13·7	28	22	—	63	10·1
1903	6,300	159	25·2	13	81·1	84	13·3	31	20	—	64	9·8
1904	6,400	151	23·5	11	69·1	85	10·6	29	17	—	68	10·6
1905	6,500	131	20·1	8	61·06	79	12·1	28	21	—	58	8·9
1906	6,650	127	19·2	14	118·1	80	12·03	22	11	—	69	9·6
1907	6,800	140	20·05	13	92·8	85	12·5	27	13	—	72	9·4
1908	7,100	143	20·01	7	48·7	83	11·6	19	16	—	67	9·4
Averages for years 1899-1908.	6,420	144	22·7	11·5	77·6	80	12·4	23·2	15·9	—	64·3	9·9
1909	7,400	148	20	12	80·1	113	15·2	10	27	—	86	11·6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 6,355

At Census of 1901.

Total population at all ages..... 6,094

Number of inhabited houses 1,142

Average number of persons per house 5·33